



Virginia Green Hotels & Lodging Facilities



Governor House Inn Falls Church, VA



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations, and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

Governor House Inn

A Colonial Style Brick Inn traditional Route 50 Americana Motor Lodge design from the 1950's featuring that era's feel and nostalgia while providing all the amenities of the modern day.

As a Colonial Style Brick Inn we have focused on maximizing our energy cost with an outstanding amount of success. Following recent installs of new roof on main lodge and windows on all rooms in conjunction with natural thermal nature of brick the entire facility costs are now less than half of what comparative size modern day properties use. The fact that in that extent we are naturally green in conjunction with our guests recommending we let other know of our recycle programs led to us to joining.

All our produce is purchased locally for both our dinner and our breakfasts bar. In addition we use recyclable oils in all our cooking.

Virginia Green Activities

This facility pledges that they:

Offer optional linen service

- Have signage in each guest room explaining the linen reuse procedures
- Change linens only upon request
- Train housekeeping staff on our process for optional linen service
- Track optional linen participation rate
- Purchase water- and energy-efficient washers and dryers

- Use non-phosphate, non-toxic and biodegradable laundry detergents
- Minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals
- Use a service that has environmentally-preferable wet cleaning for dry-clean only items

Recycle

- Have in place clearly marked recycling bins or provide convenient drop-off locations for guests to recycle:

- Glass Bottles
- Plastic Bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Newspaper
- Office paper

Other items recycled by the facility:

- Printer/ copy machine toner cartridges
- Cardboard
- Fluorescent lamps
- Batteries
- Electronics equipment such as computers, etc.

Reduce solid waste

- Track overall solid waste costs
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill
- Instruct housekeeping staff to save and reuse unopened items
- Recycle fryer grease
- Donate excess food from events
- Have an effective food inventory control system to minimize waste
- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made from recycled content
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Use refillable pens and toner cartridges
- Purchase recycled paper with a high-percentage recycled content
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible
- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex, low or no-VOC paints
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents

- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

Use water efficiently

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs
- Have established a numeric goal to reduce water consumption over time
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Use water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- Have installed high efficiency dishwashers
- Have installed low flow faucets and showerheads (use less than 2.5 gallons per minute)
- Use microfiber technology mops
- Have landscaping that utilizes native species
- Have minimized our lawn area

Conserve energy

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities within the past 12 months
- Have established a numeric goal to reduce energy usage over time
- Use ENERGY STARs Benchmarking Tools for the Hospitality Industry
- Have individual thermostats for each room; ensure they are correctly adjusted
- Have installed ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on
- Use natural lighting (i.e., open draperies and raise shades whenever adequate light from windows is available)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T-5 and T-8)
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and canned lighting
- Have adopted a policy/practice to minimize the use of lighting during night cleaning
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

Offer a green events package

- Include the availability of "green meetings/conferences" in marketing packages (see the factsheet on Environmentally-Responsible Conferences & Events)





For more information on **Governor House Inn**, see www.governorhouseinn.com or contact Dave Crance at davec@namastayinns.com or 703-532-8900.

For more information on the Virginia Green program,
see www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx.



Virginia Green is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

